\$6.50

ON CREATION,

A POEM,

Betwixt Poetry and Prose.

ably conclude, that the last of and vide

BY JOHN STORY.

The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein, Psalm cxi. 2.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, Genesis i. t.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the hosts of them by the breath of his mouth, Psalm xxx. 3, 6.



ANNO MDCCXCII.

Courteous Reader,

If the poem, when perused, meets with general approbation, it will give the author a secret satisfaction; because he may reasonably conclude, that allowance is made for the many disadvantages he laboured under as a man of no literature, therefore it may want those flourishes and beauties which are necessary to please the taste and improve the mind; yet, if this small performance should rise above the expectation of the peruser it may answer the same end, and perhaps a greater, as it may be a means to open their eyes, to let them see that God is the author and dispenser of gifts, both to the wise and foolish, the weak and the strong. I have thrown my mite into the treasury, may God give a lasting blessing to it! and to him shall be all the glory, and I conclude your well wisher,

J. STORY.



CREATION,

War in estimate then Creation op-

And give it scoperthat it hart factly

Where it's improsed whealth doub reign.

Come, great Jehovah, and my muse inspire

To sing the wonder of creative power!

Assist me to draw from that sacred spring,

That ever flows from thee, but ne'er exhausts,

Thou fulness art, and fount of every gift,

Always bestowing but art never less;

Just in thy distributions, and art free;

None can withhold where thou art pleas'd to give.

Dispel

Dispel my gloominess and me illume With thy bright beams, and let me ever see, Digest, and mark the wonders thou'st display'd, When to existence thou Creation spoke. Further my spirit please now to dilate And give it scope that it may freely range Through trackless æther, and through endless space; Where it's supposed vacuity doth reign. Vain supposition! false philosophy! Ye deities! (that's only titular) Whose aid the poets often do invoke To let them soar unto Parnassus' hill, To find refreshment, have a rich repast On dainties ye so freely do bestow, And when they're thirsty to the foot descend, Where they oft' quaff or sup the crystal stream

Which

Which doth enliven and invigorate Their spirits, till it makes them soar aloft Like Pindar's verse, for weighty and sublime, Whose tow'ring fancy hath the most surpass'd; None durst him rival, but him imitate: As he'd drank deep of the Castalian flood And richly feasted on ambrosial fruit, Which fictiously is stil'd the food of gods. But ye brats and mere fancies of the brain; Ye idols, false! whom poets often court, Avaunt, and be expelled from my sight! But come, thou parraclete, and now diffuse Thy gifts divine throughout my soul, and then I shall be equal to the arduous task, And humbly will Creation's song begin.

Thou self-existent Being, that was bless'd, And ever happy! art completely so In all thy attributes, without controul; Did'st reign from everlasting without date, Eternally before time roll'd, or had Begun her circuit in a measur'd space Perform'd her ample round, or seraphs had Receiv'd their being or in embrio was, Except 't was in thy all creating mind When out of nothing thou these creatures form'd, Most intellectual and intelligent! More like thyself than all thine other works; Superior in their order and degree, Made spirit'al, aërial, and light, And from corporeal substance was remote; But on some errands vehicles hath assum'd,

And are of large conceptions so possess'd, That they can think, distribute, or convey, By intuition quite, without the help Of speech organical, by mental signs Can be familiar, perfectly join In mutual help and constant harmony, Each other's happiness for to increase Without a jar, as love the spring that moves Them actuates and urges forward still To more attainments in their perfect state, Is far from envy, tho' another shine In lustre great, more glorious than themselves, As all is free, full, happy, and content, Are like a well tun'd instrument, whose strings Are of a different size, and yet they do In a connection harmonize the whole;

So doth the angel choir that are around

The throne of God, to celebrate the praise

Of him who is, and was, and art to come,

In highest strains of joy and thankfulness,

Fall prostrate at his feet, and with their wings

Do veil their faces as they him adore,

In ecstacies that's ever new, as he

That first inspir'd their songs still keeps the flame

Perpetually to burn, and will endure

Till time do cease eternally to reign.

Thus the Almighty the angelic race

Brought forth, and a bright numerous train appear'd,

Whose dazzling lustre shone as they defus'd

Their creature's light around the throne of God.

With

With wing expanded right, each seraph stood, Ready his high command to execute; Tho' prior was to all his other works, Yet bow'd, as sung, and own'd him their first cause. To these celestial sons show'd his intent Another world from nothing to create; Struck with astonishment, a while they paus'd; Deep silence had impos'd on ev'ry string; No wonted voice was heard, but all stood mute A space, till Gabriel spoke, and thus began: Brethren, of other creatures higher born, Yet infinite beneath him that hath stoop'd S low as to give us intelligence; What is his great design and to what end He purposes his glory to display!' His speech thus ended; lo! the listening train,

Began to sing in loud and joyful strains, "Glory unto the highest now be given; On earth, good will; and, unto future men;"-Tho' on apostate foes he hath pour'd forth His dire revenge, to make the rebels feel His mighty arm, that forcibly hath driven The self-mov'd sinners far beneath his throne. Tho' once appeared bright, yet darkness, and Dread punishment, and burning wrath them seiz'd, That durably will last; but we're confirm'd In this our happy state; for this his will, The vacancy to fill, and to bring in A future race, when by obedience try'd. Thus, in a chorus, sang the hierarchies: Mean while, the eternal Son of God appear'd, On his great errant bent, was closely girt

With

With his Omnipotence. Had on his head A crown, shone brighter than ten thousand stars. As the celestial gate then opened wide, At his command, let in the mighty King, Down he descended, as had in his hand The golden compasses; stretched them out, And with them circumscrib'd the universe; Hung it on nothing; balanc'd in the air. But the Almighty, great Omnipotent! Had his plan yet in part to execute, As nature still appear'd a shapeless thing; No order had, but in confusion was; Huddled in chaos; in gross darkness wrap'd; Until his spirit brooded o'er the deep Still hovering o'er with his incubant wing, Till he brought forth by his omnific word,

The light, which immediately parted From darkness, first to open the dawn then spread Her wing, and brought the dappled orient morn, And sprung into the utmost eastern clime. Then with elastic force hasted unto The convex of the north and south, until She'd quite surrounded the terraqueous globe. So light the solemn darkness aggrandiz'd, And darkness cast a lustre on the light; By its emission to the eye, would make Objects more grand and beautiful appear, And was emphatically call'd Day, As it was sever'd from chaotic night, By him that calculation first began, And call'd the eve and morning day the first.

Then the Almighty spoke the second time, And said, " Let there be now a firmament!" She obey'd; and her etherial curtains spread Unto the utmost convex of the earth, And form'd an ample canopy, that shone With blue transparency; was firm as brass; Large in its circumference, to contain The congregated waters which was of Measure so great and of exceeding weight .-He that it built, its pillars doth support, Else with its ponderous drops it soon wou'd rend Or crush to atoms this inferior ball, And make it all again a watery tomb. Had he not made the barrier strong, that it The distant fluid realms to separate, Was pleas'd to call the upper region Heaven,

And

And call'd glad eve and morn the second day.

The earth he'd form'd, but yet was immature,
Nor still in her soft bosom had receiv'd
The seed in embryo, but impregnant was;
Save only, what the waters had infus'd
Of nitrous saline spirit into her:
As they prevail'd, nor idle was, God said
"Let earth be dry;" immediately appear'd
The mountains huge, their peaky tops upheav'd
As they 'd salute the etherial blue expanse.
The rest had sunk to many vallies deep,
Refresh'd by humid moist or purling rills,
To fertilize the glebe. Mean while, the rest
With a precipitance rush'd on their way,
In curling wave; and wave then push'd on wave,

Urg'd

Urg'd by the great command that had prepar'd For them a bed, scoop'd out, capacious, broad, And long, and sunk a thousand fathoms deep. So in a horrid wild uproar they haste, O'er many a rock and steep do force their way, Till like a ridge or brazen wall they stood. Others, soft ebbing, stole beneath the ground, In serpent maze, thro' various minerals, The springs to constitute and them supply, Which form the brooks, whose streams go murm'ring Restless, they pass along, until they have Themselves unbosom'd into larger streams; Until those streams into a river rise, And so keeps feeding as it glides along, In paths meandering, until it arrive At the great fount where first its stream began;

So call'd the congregated waters seas. And God saw these was good, and farther said, " Now let the earth bring forth her verdant store, Herb yielding seed, whose seed is in its self After its kind; and fruit, that fruit will yield Now of it self, after its kind the naked Earth for to adorn," for until now The deserts and the trees unsightly were, Till ev'ry green appear'd and ev'ry fruit Had universal nature richly clad. There crept the weakly vine, whose clustering grapes, When press'd, the liquid crimson juice will yield. Upstarts the sturdy oak and feeble reed; Uprear'd the lofty pine; there crept the shrub; And rose, sweet smelling, on the frizl'd thorn; With buds and blossoms, now each rising tree

Was cover'd thick; all nature smil'd, look'd gay; The rest with copious fruits their boughs did bend; Woods, hills, and vallies, and each fountain side Were crown'd with plenty; and the earth was now A paradise, a fit receptacle For creatures rational; a haunt, where love In sacred pleasure here may revel, and May sit beneath a shade in safe retreat: For peace, without annoy, doth reign. Nor had He yet sent rain upon the earth, nor still No man was found to till the ground; but From the earth a mist arose, that watered At once each rising plant; and green herb on the Stem he'd caus'd to grow; and so pronounc'd The evening and the morning day, the third.

Again he spoke, and said, " let there be light Set in the firmament, and let them be For certain signs and seasons, to divide The lightsome day from night, and circling years; To rule alternately, as I ordain The greater light to rule the Lord of day; The lesser, I ordain the queen of night." He likewise made the stars, and call'd them good. Of all celestial bodies, for the sun The great artificer began to form A mighty orb, capacious was and round, Its wheels was so exactly pois'd, that they Might swiftly turn their circuit to revolve; Yet this remain'd a dusky sphere, tho' it Was of etherial mould, till lighted was A fire of essence pure; a mighty ball!

The moon he'd form'd, not an eliptic, but Globose unlightsome was, till his bright face Fill'd her dark orb with pure created light. The stars remained dark; tho' each upon Its proper orb was fix'd, yet not made close, But porous was, and sucked in the stream Firm to retain the beams of Sol, who reigns In his high palace; thither Luna turns Her dusky shrine, and freely doth transfuse Her borrow'd paler lustre round the ball; As countless planets thither do repair As to their fount, to fill their golden urns. Then they be spangled round the blue expanse, With a reflecting light and twinkling blaze, Ambitious seem'd which cou'd the rest outshine; But Venus' beams in magnitude was first.

So she upon her orbit quickly turn'd,' And thro' the trackless æther travers'd far, Thro' many a clime her far fetch'd longitude At length she compass'd, and Pleiades sweet, Swift as the morning rays in jocund dance They turn'd, direct or oblique, till arriv'd Near his bright palace, and the morning star Stood as intent his harbinger to be. Then he threw back the curtains of first morn And splendidly arose, began his race, Revolv'd on his great axle, till his beams Sunk far beneath the western main; then Eve Stretch'd o'er her potent hand, as Venus then, Glittering, emitted her officious light. The moon full orb'd immediately arose, Shone o'er the hemisphere, set opposite

In ev'ry aspect, to her source, as thousand and
Ten thousands their influence shed.
The firmament bespangled, rose and set,
Record the eve and morn the fourth day.

Again the Almighty spoke, and farther said,

"I have a copious cavity scoop'd out,
Immeasurably deep, profoundly so,
Stor'd with provision that will suit each one's
Taste, smell, and sight, of fenny tribes;" and said,

"Let the great ocean now replenish'd be;
Bring forth abundance in the waters breathe;
And fowls, fly in the open firmament."

Upstarts an offspring from spawn numerous;
Which the prolific waters had conceiv'd;
Different their size, but largest was the whale,

Close

Close wrapt in scaly fins, like solid brass, Proof was against the spear and subtilest air; If he but neez'd the briny deep arose In spouts spontaneous, as it wou'd salute The crystal element; or, if he glanc'd 'T was like the sight of orient morn, or as The livid lightning that had sudden struck The eye with dimness thro' the flush of light; Or, when he slept or spread his oars, who dar'd Presume to fix a bridle on his jaws? As there proceeded from his mouth a flame, Fierce as from Etna; he then belch'd it out. There sported the large and now greedy shark, The obsequious dolphin, and the scaly horse; The luscious sturgeon, and mackerel fine; As shoals innumerable, each creek then fill'd

Seas,

Seas, rivers, bays, and each purling rills, In which the tribes did swim in quest of food, Or sportive in spontaneous vigor leap'd Above the surface of the foaming surge; Or on the green waves show'd their glittering coats. As others near the beach then slowly mov'd, As half alive their nourishment then sought In the sea bosom, or beneath the rock, Ev'n as the fens and shores all pregnant were; And ev'ry lofty hill, valley, and grove Brought forth a very numerous brood; when they Appear'd in full proportion, and was then Richly plum'd, and quickly soar'd aloft, The eagle and the stork, as fully bent To reach the sun; the swallow and the crane, By instinct taught, exact the seasons knew,

While

While others did in flocks and figures cross The briny deep, or o'er the woodland shade, Or on the craggy rocks their eyries build, And fed their callow young, as others were Perch'd on the trembling spray with swelling notes And cheerful song, drunk in the liquid air, It modulated into melody, Till evening drew her curtains, not till then The nightingale in ceaseless lays breath'd out Her soft and most inimitable strains; Until the dawn appear'd, and Phœbus rose, And the proud swan on crystal lakes then bath'd His downy breast, had a fine arched neck Rear'd on his mantling wings, and plied his oars As he so smoothly swam across the stream, Or quits the dank on pinions swiftly soar'd

Towards

Towards the ærial blue, while on the ground
There stoutly walk'd, richly adorn'd with plumes,
The peacock in his various colour'd moons,
Proudly them spread unto the sun, until
He glanced down at his toadwebed feet,
And down they fell, another warning gave
In silent night, or at the dawn's approach;
As did the cock with his clarion voice.
So he the sea with fish replenished;
The air with ev'ry winged fowl; and, then,
Call'd the eve and morning day the fifth.

When Phœbus had three times both rose and set,
The Almighty then his last day's work began,
And said, "Now let the earth cattle bring forth
After their kind;" she quickly then obey'd,

D

Open'd

Open'd her fertile womb, and teemed forth Innumerable herds, of a perfect growth, But of a very different size and form; Large beasts of ev'ry sort, and had prepar'd Food for them that each appetite wou'd suit. Large had the earth produc'd, where they might range And pasture in the forests or the woods Without controul, as none yet savage was, In numerous herds or solitary might walk Uncoupled, as none had antipathy But was unanimous. Then first appear'd The lion, in proportion, stalk'd along In princely state, and shak'd his shagged mane And talons long. Then instantly came up The tyger, as if he a mongrel was, So fierce he seem'd, but was not so; but then

The leopard and the panther 'ppear'd in sight, Wild in their aspect, as the fallow deer, Swift bounded on the ground with branched head And crooked horns; but scarce was gone before Behemoth of earth, greatest born, upheav'd Like a huge mountain, as the busy mole Springing from under ground, threw up erect The mould, a hillock form'd, just as the numerous Flocks came bleating in their fleecy coats. Then came the amphibious crocodile, The grinning otter, and the beaver wise, And ev'ry thing that crept upon the ground; As horned snail, and the more feeble worm, Folding itself. The smallest insects are Form'd in their features and their limbs exact, In summer season, when bright Phœbus doth

Dart forth her sultry beams, on ponds and lakes, Or swarming thick do flutter on the gale In their rich liveries clad, of various hues; As purple, azure, blue, and fringed gold. While others crept in their dimensions long, Winding themselves, and are more corpulent, As countless numbers that escape the eye, Minims of nature. But the little ant Is most industrious, wise, and provident; Unto the sluggard and the spendthrift is A just reproach: join the laborious bee, Which builds her waxen house, then mounts the gale, With wings extended, and hums as she drains Delicious honey from each baleful flower, And comes home laden with the liquid juice, And feeds her husband drone. As the serpent, Subtilest

Subtilest of beasts, comes crawling on the ground, Lifts up her crested head and brazen eyes, As under her tongue no poisonous matter's hid. Thus far we have observ'd, must leave behind The rest, as they so far surpass our thoughts. So the Almighty now his work survey'd With pleasure, and pronounc'd them good. But yet Another creature wanted to compleat The whole of his great works; not one brutal, But one endued with reason, sense, and love; Erect in his position, none else so, To view the luminaries as they shone With glittering lustre in the pavement blue; And every fish, fowl, insect, and each beast That rang'd the forest, or swam in the flood; Or, with the outspread wing did part the air

As others flutter'd on the gale, as did

The rest creep on earth's surface, or live in

Its bowels; on these all to contemplate,

Adore the great Creator that hath shown

His wisdom infinite, in forming such

A noble system, and it furnished with

A vast variety, and useful all to

Man he is just going to create,

So in concert with his eternal Son,

He mildly spoke unto him, and thus said:

"Let us make man in our own image, and In our own likeness and similitude;
And let them have dominion, and be Lord
To rule o'er ev'ry creature that doth breathe
In sea or river, or on earth's domain."

So God created man a living soul; His body form'd, not of celestial mould, But of the dust, and breath into his nostrils Infus'd; was made the head; call'd him the male; The other female, his consort to be; Form of like form, and soul like soul, and said, "Be fruitful, and now multiply thy seed, And let thy offspring spread throughout the earth; Subdue it, and all to thee homage pay, Not as Supreme, but as subordinate; As thou hast from me receiv'd this power, To be distinct from all the rest; as thou Only art rational, can think and speak, Judge and determine; prudently can act; And art so delicate in taste and smell! So I have brought thee to this garden, stor'd

With

With all delicious fruits and flowers gay; Full of nectareous juices, ready stand To court thy appetite, are fully ripe; When pluck'd and eat, will satisfaction yield; For, on the fragrant bush, the rose is blown, As others do in borders stand to tempt The eye and smell. Here reigns variety! But in the midst there stands a tree, forbid I do its fruit to touch or taste, tho' it Be call'd the Tree of Knowledge, only will Bring knowledge of the evil, not the good; If once 't is eat, 't will bring a threefold death On thee and all thy future progeny. Beware! stand fast! lest thou should be surpris'd: Check now thy appetite, lest it should bring Forth sin with all its cursed dreadful train."

So the Almighty finish'd, and beheld

His works with approbation and delight;

But when man view'd, he call'd them very good,

And stil'd the eve and morning the sixth day.

Now finish'd was the great Creator's plan,
Tho' he unwearied from his work desist,
And on the wings of Omnipotence he rose,
Till he reach'd unto his imperial seat,
And there was thron'd above the Heaven of Heavens;
There with a glance intuitive he view'd
His new creation, and it pleas'd him well,
As it answer'd his plan and great idea,
And, smiling, was attended by a train
Of seraphs that loud acclamations rais'd
In hymns of praise. Symphoneous was the song,

E

As struck their golden lyres, and ready was To touch the trembling string, as doing so At once ten thousand tuneful harps was play'd, Which made the heavenly arches to resound, While all the moving planets stood amaz'd, As from their mighty orbs glory display'd Quite thro' the whole of this new system; till, At length, bright Venus and great Jupiter, Attendants of great Sol and Luna, danc'd: Mean while, the pompous train in triumph rose Sounding the Jubilee, till they arrive Near to the entrance of the gate; then sang, "Be ope'd ye everlasting doors and let The King of Glory enter in, as from Creation's work return'd." Immediately They flew ope as on their golden hinges turn'd;

Then

Then he pass'd thro', and all his retinue, On crystal pavement and thro' streets of gold, And reascended to his dazzling throne, As seraphs stood with half outstretched wing; And spirits, all benign, at his behest Would fly with speed to visit worlds below, With special gifts from his supernal love. Mean while, the sun the horizon declin'd, Till he be sunk the western main beneath, And twilight had brought on the dusky shades, Which quick was scatter'd by the moon, as shone On Eden's fruits, as glittering thro' the trees, Fit time as when the happy pair might take The pleasing and the solitary walk, In humble prostration to breathe out Their evening sacrifice, in songs of praise,

Till weary, and kind nature call'd to rest, Slept in the harbour, till bright Sol arose The seventh day, tipt all with golden hue. And now the end and author of all things Had, quite unwearied, rested from his work, And hallow'd it; yet not in silence, but Was in devotion, love, and worship kept; For still the angelic choir employed was In shouting forth Creation's noble song, Unto Jehovah, who is and was possess'd Of wisdom infinite, in measure deep, Vast and profoundly so, beyond the reach Of all their thoughts, tho' of superior Faculties possess'd; far more intelligent] Than other creatures of inferior race; Yet their ideas largest were quite lost

When

When in such wond'rous contemplations they His great Almighty pow'r attempt to reach. Tho' the apostate spirits oft have strove Omnipotence in vain to reach, or to Confute his works, by stratagem or strength, When fully fraught with rage, yet then confess'd Their weapons were but feeble, when compar'd To his great powerful arm, which had them crush'd, When from Heaven's battlements he headlong cast Them down into the regions of despair, Millions and countless leagues beneath his throne. Tho' with infatuation once was drawn Of spirits that were happy, the third part In envious tempers shared, and the loss Is irretrievable, as they ne'er will Of happiness again be e'er possess'd,

Intelligent

Intelligent remains; nor is their pow'r Abated, but it's chained and controul'd, Else numbers of thy worshippers wou'd draw, Resolv'd they were thy empire to diminish, And populate their own. Impious the thought! From such designs his purposes can serve, As witness those inhabitants so near The imperial throne, whose worlds are founded on Æther's blue pillars, richly deck'd with stars, Almost immense, are in their magnitudes; And so, perhaps, each planet is a world Of inhabitants; if so, their constitutions are Suited unto their clime; but still thou hast Made an inferior globe, a garden of Delights, fit dwelling place; for sons of men

Highly

Highly are favour'd, and as high advanced
Above their fellow brutes; erect they stood
Cloath'd in his image, and might persever
In their primeval state, and multiply
A future race of perfect worshippers.
Thus sung the hierarchies, as made
Their hallelujahs echo all around
The imperial arches, so they Sabbath kept.

